

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to upgrade the Coal India Ltd. set up in the North East region to expedite the exploitation and mining of coking coal there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to minimise the import of coking coal to save foreign exchange?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUA): (a) and (b). Introduction of Hydraulic Mining with Coal. Washery at Baragolai Project of North Eastern Coalfields, Assam was identified as one of the Projects for development with possible Canadian assistance. A study has been undertaken by a Canadian Company under Canadian Government grant assistance in the regard which submitted its report in June, 1991. This report is being evaluated by Coal India Ltd.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Coal India has established a Regional Institute of Central Mine Planning and Design Institute at Tura to render assistance in extraction of coal from the coalfields in Meghalaya and adjoining areas. General Manager's post at North Eastern Coalfields has been filled up. The staff at Gowahati and Meghalaya is being augmented.

(e) Following steps are being taken to increase the production of coking coal to minimise import requirements:-

1. Coking Coal Projects are receiving highest priority in investment.
2. The washed coking coal (including direct feed) production is proposed to increase from 10.0 million tonnes

during 1991-92 to 13.97 million tonnes in 1996-97, the terminal year of the VIII Five Year Plan.

3. Modifications of existing Washeries and construction of new washeries to augment the washed coking coal availability are being carried out.
4. Explorations to identify the new sources of coking coal are being made.
5. The production of coking coal is being monitored at the highest level in the Government.

Vacancies in ICAR

2401. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of the Director general, ICAR and Chiefs of some of the ICAR institutions are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Sir, The posts of Director in some of the ICAR institutes are lying vacant.

(b) Due to retirement, resignation, transfer etc.

(c) As soon as the recruitment process is completed.

Allocation for Agricultural Research and Education

2402. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: